

CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE HABITAT RELATIONSHIPS SYSTEM
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R045 Western Blind Snake *Leptotyphlops humilis*
Family: Leptotyphlopidae Order: Squamata Class: Reptilia

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DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE, AND SEASONALITY

The western blind snake is widely distributed in southern California from the coast to the eastern border at elevations up to 1515 m (5000 ft). It seldom occurs in strictly sandy areas, alluvial flats or dry lakes. Little is known about abundance. A wide variety of habitats at lower elevations is occupied where conditions are suitable for burrowing, or hiding under surface objects and in crevices (Klauber 1940, Brattstrom 1953, Brattstrom and Schwenkmeyer 1951, Stebbins 1954, 1972).

SPECIFIC HABITAT REQUIREMENTS

Feeding: This snake eats ants, termites, their eggs, larvae and other soft-bodied insects (Stebbins 1954).

Cover: This snake burrows, spending most of its time underground. It has also been taken under objects such as logs, rocks and among the roots of shrubs. They have also been taken under granite flakes (Stebbins 1954).

Reproduction: No data.

Water: The western blind snake seems to prefer moister habitats but is found in very arid environments, so permanent water is probably not required (Stebbins 1954).

Pattern: This species prefers moist areas. In canyons, stony and sandy deserts, rocky slopes and boulder piles, and scrub.

SPECIES LIFE HISTORY

Activity Patterns: This snake appears on the surface at night but may be active underground at other times. Greatest seasonal activity occurs from April to August (Stebbins 1954).

Seasonal Movements/Migration: No data.

Home Range: No data.

Territory: No data.

Reproduction: Little is known about reproduction. An average of 4 eggs (range 2-6) is laid in late summer (Klauber 1940, Stebbins 1954).

Niche: There is one record of this snake preyed upon by a coyote (Stebbins 1954). It is

probably eaten by most avian and mammalian predators when encountered. Nothing is available about diseases parasites or competitors.

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